

District Councillor Report
Haseley Brook ward
05 April 2024

Cllr Georgina Heritage



My Meetings and Activity

Since my last report I have attended the following SODC meetings and committees:

19th March – Planning Briefing on NPPF Changes

3rd April – Planning Committee

The **Planning Briefing on National Planning Policy Framework Changes** was especially interesting in terms of the land supply requirement, which was previously set at 5 years. Housing targets are now moving to a more “advisory” position, rather than a mandatory annual submission requirement, depending on the status of an area’s Local Plan. Land supply is something I’m often asked about in parish council meetings, so I hope you will find this information to be useful:

The addition of paragraph 76 means that Local Planning Authorities will no longer be required to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply if

- their adopted plan is less than five years old, and
- that adopted plan identified at least a five year supply of housing sites when examination concluded.

There are transitional arrangements of a new four year supply test, which is relevant if the LPA has published a Reg 18 or Reg 19 version of emerging Local Plan (*like South and Vale’s Joint Local Plan*). This applies for two years from the December 2023 NPPF update.

The relevant paragraphs in full read as follows:

76. Local planning authorities are not required to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years’ worth of housing for decision making purposes if the following criteria are met⁴⁰: a) their adopted plan is less than five years old; and b) that adopted plan identified at least a five year supply of specific, deliverable sites at the time that its examination concluded.

77. In all other circumstances, local planning authorities should identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide either a minimum of five years’ worth of housing⁴¹, or a minimum of four years’ worth of housing if the provisions in paragraph 226 apply. The supply should be demonstrated against either the housing requirement set out in adopted strategic policies, or against the local housing need where the strategic policies are more than five years old⁴². Where there has been significant under delivery of housing over the previous three years⁴³, the supply of specific deliverable sites should in addition include a buffer of 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period). National planning

guidance provides further information on calculating the housing land supply, including the circumstances in which past shortfalls or over-supply can be addressed.

226. From the date of publication of this revision of the Framework, for decision-making purposes only, certain local planning authorities will only be required to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of four years' worth of housing (with a buffer, if applicable, as set out in paragraph 77) against the housing requirement set out in adopted strategic policies, or against local housing need where the strategic policies are more than five years old⁸⁰, instead of a minimum of five years as set out in paragraph 77 of this Framework. This policy applies to those authorities which have an emerging local plan that has either been submitted for examination or has reached Regulation 18 or Regulation 19 (Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012) stage, including both a policies map and proposed allocations towards meeting housing need. This provision does not apply to authorities who are not required to demonstrate a housing land supply, as set out in paragraph 76. These arrangements will apply for a period of two years from the publication date of this revision of the Framework

There will also be weighting against major speculating developments in areas with a Neighbourhood Plan of 5 years old or less, as long as the Neighbourhood Plan contains policies on and allocation of housing land.

Great British Spring Clean - Litter Picking and Fly Tipping

On 23rd March, Cllr Ed Sadler (Chinnor ward) and I took part in Lewknor's "Great British Spring Clean", and I know there have been fantastic efforts from residents throughout the Haseley Brook ward and South Oxon in this initiative. Through my own involvement and correspondence from other parishes, I became especially aware of the problem of bulky fly tipped items of waste retrieved by residents from roadside banks and hedges. I reported these piles of "heavy duty" waste to a waste recycling officer and they should now have all been collected. I have also requested more information from Biffa regarding their policy on waste clearance from certain areas in the ward deemed to be inaccessible, yet which volunteer residents have been accessing for the parish spring cleans. Cabinet member Cllr Sue Cooper has been supporting me with this and, as a first step, I will be meeting with a senior manager from Biffa next week to address the ongoing litter and fly tipping problems along the banks of the B4009, with the hope of establishing a longer-term strategy.

April's Extra Garden Waste Collections

Residents who are subscribed to the district council brown bin garden waste service in South Oxfordshire or Vale of White Horse can have extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal collection day only, **between 15 and 26 April**.

Residents can put out a maximum of up to four additional sacks of garden waste per brown bin subscription, next to their brown bin.

To be eligible for collection, the extra waste must contain only natural garden waste, such as cut grass, plants or branches and be placed in standard sized (60L) sacks or in boxes / containers totalling

no more than a standard bin full. Where possible, please use cardboard boxes as these are much more environmentally friendly than plastic sacks. Please note that crews will not be able to collect builders' tonne waste bags.

All the garden waste collected will be taken to a facility near Wallingford where it is composted. The compost will then be sold on to local farmers for use on their farmland.

More information about garden waste collections can be found on the [South Oxfordshire garden waste page](#)

Retrofitting Measures

There are new webpages to help residents who want to retrofit energy-saving measures to their properties but are unsure if they need planning permission. This specially created online guide offers information, whether people want to add simple insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps or cladding to their properties.

They can be found at www.southoxon.gov.uk/retrofitting-rules

EV Car Clubs

As the EV car clubs continue their trial period at our car parks in [Abingdon](#), [Henley](#) and [Wallingford](#), SODC is keen to hear from drivers who have used them. If you are a member of the EV car club or know anyone who is, please get in touch via the climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk as South and Vale councils would like to share real life experiences with other would-be EV car club users. Now is a good time to sign up as there are free membership and driving credit offers at some sites.

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter

A new initiative will put community at the centre of decision making when South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils buy goods and services. The councils have pledged their commitment to Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership's (OIEP) charter, which means that when the councils agree contracts, they will assess what support the supplier can offer the local community, as well as the value for money of the contract. The council will look wherever possible to buy goods and services from local organisations, including SMEs, social enterprises, and cooperatives.

The councils will be ensuring they meet their pledges by monitoring progress through quarterly reports, which are available for the public to view.

Council Car Park Fees

New fees for car parks in South Oxfordshire are being introduced from April 1. The car park fees are being simplified and rounded to the nearest whole pound, while all car parks will continue to have a period of free parking. This means some of the fees are being reduced by up to 16 percent while other will see modest increases. Parking permits rates have also been frozen.

The additional parking income from the rises means SODC can match the cost of managing and running our car parks, otherwise we'd have to divert funding from other council services to subsidise car parking.

All funds from car parking fees and permits are invested back into providing the service and making improvements to car parks, highways, public conveniences and public open spaces, as well as developing infrastructure to encourage active travel – such as cycle paths and bike storage.

Parking for the first hour remains free in all Didcot, Thame and Henley public car parks.

There is a growing body of evidence that shows the number of car parking spaces available is a bigger factor in encouraging people to a town centre than the price of parking. Research shows that customers value the certainty of being able to park when and where they want to, and convenience is a quality for which most people are willing to pay. It also shows that while business owners believe that as cost increases, footfall decreases, in fact, the towns/cities with the highest footfall generally have higher than average parking charges. Furthermore, fair car park charges can help ensure that parking spaces frequently turn over, increasing overall footfall.